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## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, You are our mighty fortress. Thank You for Your mercies, which are fresh each day. Your spirit restores us to newness of life. Because of You, we have a new joy, a new song, and a new hope.

Today, bless our Senators. Guide their steps, and inspire their hearts. May they use their talents to make the Nation and world better. Lord, be their strength and shield from every danger as You fill their hearts with a peace that the world can't give or take away.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 22, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. KING thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on AUMF first, two decades after the start of the Iraq war, the Senate this week debates legislation to repeal the authority that commenced the war to begin with. By a large vote—67 to 28—the Senate yesterday sent a clear message that the time has come to repeal the AUMFs of 2002 and 1991. At this point, repealing the Iraq AUMFs in the Senate is not a matter of if but, rather, of when.

I hope, given such a strong bipartisan vote yesterday, we can move quickly. There should be no needless delay or dilatory tactics on something the ma-

jority of Senators support. We are in the process of negotiating amendments. We want to be reasonable, but this process is going to proceed as quickly as it can.

Allowing these AUMFs to remain on the books is just asking for a future administration to abuse them and, God forbid, bumble us into a new conflict in the Middle East.

War powers belong in the hands of Congress, and we should use and exert that authority by bringing these AUMFs to a close.

It is my hope that both sides can reach an agreement to accelerate this process very soon. In the meantime, once again, thanks, kudos to Senators KAINE and YOUNG, Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH, and all of the cosponsors. There are many in this legislation.

#### RAIL SAFETY

Mr. President, now on trains, after last month's terrible derailment in East Palestine, Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw has a chance today to prove before the Senate Commerce Committee that his company is ready to fix the damage they have created. During his testimony, I hope Mr. Shaw will offer some candid answers to a number of very troubling questions.

For example, if Mr. Shaw and rail executives truly care about safety, why did they spend years—years—lobbying the Republican administrations to claw away at regulations intended to keep people safe?

What is Norfolk Southern doing to prevent future accidents like the one in East Palestine? And, God forbid, if another one happens, how will Norfolk Southern ensure communities get the resources they need?

Also, I want to hear Mr. Shaw explain why his company has engorged itself with stock buybacks when that money could have been spent on safety. Listen to this: Norfolk Southern has more than doubled the amount they spent on stock buybacks in the 5 years

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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